

1 ON ONE

Suggested Reading Guide 2010



Milk Start with these. If you have not read Christian literature, here are some basics.

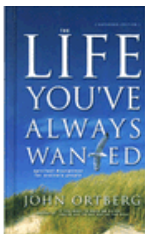


White Meat These are easy to digest. They are intermediate level. It's not that these books are hard to understand or read, but the milk, entry level books, set a framework for going further.



Red Meat These are for advanced learning. They are a little more difficult to digest, but the material is high in protein.

NOTE: The following list is not a inclusive list of what we consider to be the best books. These are all very good books, most of them considered to be classics, but these are also the books in our library. All books can be checked out for free at the 1 On One Resource Table each week at the Gathering worship service.



All participants are encouraged to read *The Life You Always Wanted*. It is available at the resource table for just \$5.00.

The Life You Always Wanted by John Ortberg
Ortberg brings fresh ink to the old topic of spiritual disciplines. He offers modern perspectives on the ancient path of the spiritual disciplines like confession, fasting, meditation and reflection. The purpose is transformation, not just information. His style and content are refreshing and practical as he covers a subject that many expect to be boring.



Basic Christianity by John Stott (IVP)

A basic description of salvation covering man's need, the person of Christ, the cross and repentance. Great for new Christians or even non-Christians.



Blue Like Jazz, by Donald Miller

Donald Miller writes from the point of view of a Christian struggling with the traditional faith handed down to a generation of young people who struggle deeply with the meaning of life and what it really means to be a Christian in a "post-modern" world. This is a good book for those who struggle with their faith and it challenges superficial faith.



Grace Walk, by Steve McVey

Grace Walk has helped thousands of believers leave behind the "manic-depressive" Christian walk: either running around trying to perform to be acceptable to God or thinking they've failed Him again and wondering if they'll ever measure up. Living the grace walk gets you off this religious roller coaster! Using his own journey from legalism into grace, Steve McVey illustrates the foundational, biblical truths of who you are in Christ and how you can let Him live His life through you each day. As you experience your true identity in Christ, you'll come to know "Amazing Grace" as not just a song but as your true way of life!



He Chose the Nails by Max Lucado

Reading a Max Lucado book is as comfortable as having coffee and conversation with a close friend. *He Chose the Nails: What God Did to Win Your Heart* is signature Lucado: warm, conversational storytelling blended with scripture, humor, and vulnerability. Lucado invites us to understand the symbols surrounding Christ's crucifixion and celebrate the significance of the promises they offer. Lucado takes us to Calvary and shows us our sins nailed between the hand of Jesus and the cross.



Knowledge of the Holy by A.W. Tozier

A classic work on getting to know God, some of the barriers and benefits. Very convicting words about how we pursue the things of God rather than God himself. Good for a study group or a new Christian.



Know What you Believe by Paul Little .

For years a standard, simple work on basic Christian teachings (192 pgs, with index). Little fills the book with stories and illustrations to make it interesting at an introductory level. Good for new Christians.



The Life You Always Wanted by John Ortberg

Ortberg brings fresh ink to the old topic of spiritual disciplines. He offers modern perspectives on the ancient path of the spiritual disciplines like confession, fasting, meditation and reflection. The purpose is transformation, not just information. His style and content are refreshing and practical as he covers a subject that many expect to be boring.



Love Beyond Reason by John Ortberg

How do you explain a love that has no explanation? What will happen if you let it touch your heart? God loves you neither because you're flawless nor because you're perfect, but just because you are. In *Love Beyond Reason*, John Ortberg reveals the God you've longed to encounter: a Father head over heels in love with you, his child, and intensely committed to your highest joy. After exploring how this love has been revealed through Jesus, you'll learn how you can love your family, friends, and the world around you with the same transforming love.



Loving God, by Chuck Colson

With something like a billion copies sold, there must be something good here. Colson uses entertaining stories in each chapter to show the reader the importance of the Bible, faith, friendship, etc. on the Christian's personal relationship with God. Great reading for young Christians.



The Purpose Driven Life by Rick Warren

This book swept the country in 2004. It is to be read in forty days. Many have found it to be a great renewal book as their lives are placed in new meaning according to God's plan.



The Ragamuffin Gospel by Brennan Manning

Not everyone can look at Christianity the way Brennan Manning does. This will get your mind moving, your heart aching and your prayers to be out of the box!



The Reason for God, by Timothy Keller

Timothy Keller tackles the tough objections that skeptics are asking today: How could a good God allow suffering; the church is responsible for so much injustice; science has disproved Christianity; and You can't take the Bible literally, to name a few. Keller is grounded in good theology and Bible knowledge. For years, Tim Keller has compiled a list of the most frequently voiced "doubts" skeptics bring to his Manhattan church. And in *The Reason for God*, he single-handedly dismantles each of them. Written with atheists, agnostics, and skeptics in mind, Keller also provides an intelligent platform on which true believers can stand their ground when bombarded by the backlash. *The Reason for God* challenges such ideology at its core and points to the true path and purpose of Christianity. This is a book that anyone can understand and is a good read.



Searching for God Knows What: Reflections on the Gospel of Jesus By: Donald Miller

Brokenness. We deny it, but our innumerable doubts and fears reveal its constant presence. We try and hide from it, but it's lurking behind every concealed corner. In *Searching for God Knows What* Donald Miller explores the countless ways that we try to fix our brokenness, which work about as well as the attempts of the king's men to put Humpty back together again, and clearly guides us to the fix we've been frantically looking for: redemption. Through clear biblical teaching and witty, engaging stories, Don Miller will help us to confess our brokenness and find the fix we've been searching for.



The Strategies of Satan, by Warren Wiersbe

Wiersbe describes Satan's role in the world in four parts: the deceiver, the tempter, the destroyer, and the accuser. This book does a very good job of showing how the devil works in the life of the believer without being sensational. New Christians will really benefit.



Too Busy Not To Pray, by Bill Hybels

This is a great modern book on prayer. Hybels, an obviously effective Christian worker, found that without prayer his life was dry and ineffective. He gives the reader some practical advice on "slowing down from 50,000 rpm to 5,000 rpm" where you can begin to hear the Spirit of the Lord and not just ask for things.



What's So Amazing About Grace by Phillip Yancey

Grace is the subject and he covers it without holding back. The world is not accustomed to God's grace and Yancey received some criticism because he did not condemn some people in his book. There are stories here that will make strong men get misty, and you will learn something at the same time. This is not a text book, but teaching you a lot about the ministry of Jesus.



Wild At Heart by John Eldredge (In book and CD)

Helping men rediscover their masculine heart, *Wild at Heart*, a guide to understanding Christian manhood and Christian men, offers a refreshing break from the chorus of voices urging men to be more responsible, reliable, dutiful ... and dead. God designed men to be dangerous, says Eldredge. Simply look at the dreams and desires written in every boy's heart: to be a hero, to be a warrior, to live a life of adventure and risk. Sadly, most men abandon those dreams and desires---aided by a Christianity that feels like nothing more than pressure to be a "nice guy." It's no wonder that many men avoid church, and those who go are often passive and bored to death. In this provocative book, Eldredge gives women a look inside the true heart of a man and gives men permission to be what God designed them to be---dangerous, passionate, alive, and free.





Celebration of Discipline by Richard Foster (Harper and Row)

Foster shows that God has prescribed a number of disciplines that are the key to our growth. He compares spiritual disciplines to disciplines in any field, showing that discipline is God's way. A very good book to challenge our passivity. Also helpful in our prayer life.



Desiring God, John Piper

Most Christians struggle with Paul's command to "Rejoice in the Lord *always*." Commonly we forget that God is the single happiest and contented person in the universe. We tend to think that He is disappointed with us or that His demands are burdensome. Piper explores the Scriptures to come up with some surprising conclusions. Provocative reading because of the way he approaches things.



Freedom of Simplicity By: Richard J. Foster

Simplicity is not merely a matter of having less stress and more leisure. It is rather an essential spiritual discipline that we must practice for the health of the soul. Twenty-five years after it first appeared, this updated edition of Richard Foster's classic work explores the foundation of this discipline, its fundamental importance in the Bible, and how it has been manifested and taught by God's saints throughout Christian history. This beautiful, moving manifesto on incorporating simplicity into our hectic lives still rings true---and is even more needed today.



The Great Divorce, C.S. Lewis

A fictional story about the afterlife. Begins with the main character in Hell. He is allowed a bus ride to Heaven where they will dialogue with their relatives and friends. Many interesting ideas on the nature of the afterlife and human nature.



The Great Omission: Reclaiming Jesus' Essential Teachings on Discipleship by Dallas Willard

The last command Jesus gave before he ascended to heaven was the Great Commission, the call to "make disciples of all the nations." But Christians have responded by making "Christians," not "disciples." He calls on believers to restore what should be the heart of Christianity - being active disciples of Jesus Christ. Willard shows us that in the school of life, we are apprentices of the Teacher whose brilliance encourages us to rise above traditional church understanding and embrace the true meaning of discipleship - an active, concrete, 24/7 life with Jesus.



Hearing God by Dallas Willard (First published as *In Search of Guidance*)

Willard is one of my new favorite writers. Even though his books are usually weighty, this book is incredibly useful and practical to being discerning about whether we are listening to God in our lives. If you are wondering how God speaks and how to know His will for you, this book would be a great place to start.



In the Name of Jesus, Henri Nouwen

This is an important book for anyone entering into Christian leadership at any level. It is short and to the point, but poignant and challenges many of our ideas about what a leader is supposed to look like. He takes Jesus' temptation in the desert and Jesus' words to Peter after his resurrection and gives principles for God-centered, humble Christian leadership.



Knowing God by J.I. Packer

A classic work on the challenge of getting to know God. Packer makes a case that this is the ultimate point of our existence, as well as the most rewarding pursuit of life. The majority of the book shows us pictures of God from the scriptures.



Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Faith in Community by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

After his martyrdom at the hands of the Gestapo in 1945, Dietrich Bonhoeffer continued his witness in the hearts of Christians around the world. In his book *Life Together* we learn of Pastor Bonhoeffer's experience within Christian community. This story of a unique fellowship in an underground seminary during the Nazi years reads like one of Paul's letters. It gives practical advice on how life together in Christ can be sustained in families and groups. The role of personal prayer, worship in common, everyday work, and Christian service is treated in simple, almost biblical, words.



My Utmost for His Highest . by Oswald Chambers

Oswald Chambers, a Scotsman who converted to Christianity in his teens under the ministry of Charles Spurgeon, has been affecting Christians with his devotional words since *My Utmost for His Highest* was first published in 1935. This acknowledged classic contains 365 daily readings that take heady doctrine and make it practical, realistic, and intensely personal. With humor and humility, Chambers speaks plainly to the common person struggling with devotion to Christ in daily living.



Mere Christianity. by C.S. Lewis

The late Lewis, Oxford professor, scholar, author, and Christian apologist, presents the listener with a case for orthodox Christianity. Lewis employs logical arguments that are eloquently expressed. He describes those doctrines that the four major denominations in Britain (Anglican, Methodist, Presbyterian, and Roman Catholic) would have in common, e.g., original sin, the transcendent Creator God, and the divinity of Jesus as well as his atonement and bodily resurrection.



The Practice of the Presence of God by Brother Lawrence

For more than three centuries, the writings of Brother Lawrence have taught Christians that God is as present in the kitchen as in the cathedral and as accessible in the living room as He is around the Lord's table. This simple, yet profound teaching will empower you to seek the joy of God's presence in the midst of every moment and circumstance. Sensitive revised in modern English, this edition includes a color timeline and a biography of Lawrence complete with black-and-white illustrations.



Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home By: Richard J. Foster

Best-selling author Richard Foster offers a warm, compelling, and sensitive primer on prayer, helping you to understand, experience, and practice it in its many forms. He clarifies the prayer process, answers common misconceptions, and shows the way into prayers of contemplation, healing, blessing, forgiveness, and rest. Foster shows how prayer can move you inward into personal transformation, upward toward intimacy with God, and outward to minister to others.

He leads you beyond questions to a deeper understanding and practice of prayer, bringing you closer to God, to yourself, and to your community.



Power Through Prayer, by E.M. Bounds

Short chapters, big ideas about prayer. With chapter titles such as "Man's Most Noble Exercise", "Talking to God for Men", and "The Secret of Power" this book motivates and educates on the least understood and most neglected aspects of our relationship with God.



The Prodigal God: Recovering the Heart of the Christian Faith by Timothy Keller

Using his characteristic intellectual approach to faith issues, Keller uncovers an unexpected message in the familiar--and often misunderstood--New Testament parable of the prodigal son. Seekers and believers alike will see Christianity in a whole new way when they learn how Christ's followers are *supposed* to love, so they can join him in heaven.



Reaching for the Invisible God by Phillip Yancey

Yancey pulls no punches in his quest for answers concerning a God we cannot see. He wrestles with the fundamental questions: How do I communicate with God? How does prayer work? If God heals, why hasn't he healed my friend? If he changes people, why am I still the same? This book is rich with illustrations from his wealth of literary references as well as Biblical truth. It is not a quick read, since you will probably put it down to let it sink in.



Screwtape Letters, by C.S. Lewis

A classic of Christian fiction. Lewis uses a correspondence between two demons, one experienced and one novice, to demonstrate to the reader the nature of spiritual warfare. Great insights into the strategies of Satan and the ways of humans.



Spiritual Maturity by J. Oswald Sanders

Another good all around treatment of spiritual growth, including a huge number of relevant topics such as suffering, developing good habits, prayer, etc.



The Way of the Heart by Henri Nouwen

This modern classic interweaves the solitude, silence, and prayer of the fourth- and fifth-century Egyptian Desert Fathers and Mothers with our contemporary search for an authentic spirituality.



All of Grace by Charles H. Spurgeon

Here is a true classic - the first Christian pocket-paperback published in the United States and a best seller ever since. C.H. Spurgeon, "the prince of preachers," presents the message of salvation - man's need and God's unique provision - simply and sincerely, for honest seekers and zealous witnesses alike.



The Divine Conspiracy by Dallas Willard

In *The Divine Conspiracy*, Willard gracefully weaves biblical teaching, popular culture, science, scholarship, and spiritual practice into a tour de force that shows the necessity of profound changes in how we view our lives and faith. Willard refutes this "fire escape" mentality by exploring the true nature of the teachings of Jesus, who intended that His followers become His disciples, and taught that we have access now to the life we are only too eager to relegate to the hereafter. The author calls us into a more authentic faith and offers a practical plan by which we can become Christ-like. He encourages faith by embracing the true meaning of Christian discipleship.



The Imitation of Christ by Thomas a Kempis

Next to the Bible, this book is the most-published--and most deeply cherished--book in any language. For nearly 600 years, these thoughtful meditations on Jesus' life and teachings offer practical guidance on the central task of the Christian life: learning day by day to live like Jesus.



On Christian Teaching by Saint Augustine

Not for the faint of heart. This is a very difficult read because it was written over 1,500 years ago by one of the smartest Christians who has ever lived. Augustine wrote this work in pieces over the course of his whole life, and it is a great book for any Christian who wants to become a serious student of the Bible and learn what Christianity was like during ancient times.



A Testament of Devotion by Thomas R. Kelly

Since its first publication in 1941, *A Testament of Devotion* by the renowned Quaker teacher Thomas Kelly, has been universally embraced as a truly enduring spiritual classic. Plainspoken and deeply inspirational, it gathers together five compelling essays that urge us to center our lives on God's presence, to find quiet and stillness within modern life, and to discover the deeply satisfying and lasting peace of the inner spiritual journey.



True Spirituality by Francis Schaeffer

What does true, biblical, Christian spirituality, grounded in Christ's finished work, look like in real, everyday life? How do we live our Christian lives both more effectively and freely, every moment, by the grace of God? These are the sorts of issues Schaeffer characteristically helps us think more clearly and biblically about. Read this book carefully and thoughtfully and it will have a profound effect on your life.